

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

1a. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The rejection made 35 U.S.C. § 103 against claims 1 claims 13, 17-23, as unpatentable over Kasaian et al (April 2002) in view of Brenne et al May 2002), is withdrawn.

Applicants' argument that Kasaian teaches that IL-21 enhances IFN- γ production in NK cells, while the instant specification teaches that IL-21 decreases IFN- γ production in T cell is found persuasive. Thus, antagonists of IL-21 would be expected to decrease IFN- γ production in NK cells, while the instant claims are directed to increasing the levels of IFN- γ in T cells using antagonists of IL-21. Therefore, the combined teachings of Kasaian et al and Brenne et al, do not suggest or render obvious the method of using antagonists of IL-21 to increase the levels of IFN- γ in T cells, recited in claims 13 and 17-23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information Disclosure Statement:

2a. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 06 April 2007, has been received and complies with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98. The references in the parent application number 10/115,123 have been considered as to the merits.

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Advisory Information:

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fozia M. Hamud whose telephone number is (571) 272-0884. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol can be reached on (571) 272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fozia Hamud
Patent Examiner
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05 July 2007